THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) At present, there is no LPG Bottling Plant in Bellary District.

(b) The total requirement of LPG of the registered consumers of Public Sector Oil Companies in Bellary District is about 600 MT per month.

(c) to (e) Under 9th Plan, two LPG Bottling plants have been planned at Bangalore and Dharwad in Karnataka by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL). Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has a plan to set up a 10 TMTPA bottling capacity plant at Bellary during 9th Plan and identification of suitable land for plant is in progress.

Adulteration of Diesel

4995. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rampant adulteration of diesel has been reported; and

(b) if so the steps taken to reduce the price of different between kerosene and diesel to discourage adulteration of diesel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Government have received complaints regarding adulteration of diesel. Oil Marketing Companies carry our regular/surprise checks of retail outlets, to prevent various malpractices including adulteration. In addition, special drives are launched by the oil companies both on their own and also under direction of Government from time to time to check malpractices. To prevent adulteration various steps like blue dyeing of kerosene (Public Distribution System), furfural doping, filter paper test, stock reconciliation, checking of retail outlets by mobile laboratories, etc. are taken by oil companies.

(b) From 23.3.2000, Government have increased the ex storage point price of PDS kerosene from Rs. 2.00/ litre to 4.50/litre.

Methane Gas Reserves in Jharkhand

†4996. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is huge reserve of coal bed methane gas in the coal areas of Hazaribagh and Dhanbad of Jharkhand region;

(b) if so, the details of this huge reserve according to the datas received so far;